

Message Text

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1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION. IN THIS DEVELOPING SOCIETY AND ECONOMY IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE A SINGLE AREA OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL ENDEAVOR WHICH WILL NOT BE OF IMPORTANCE TO U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS DURING THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS. IN THIS OVERALL CONTEXT MOST CHILEAN SCIENTITISTS ARE ESSENTIALLY RECEIVERS AND DIFFUSERS OF SCIENTIFIC IDEAS RATHER THAN INNOVATORS AND INVENTORS. THEREFORE, THE TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE, RATHER THAN RESEARCH, WILL HERE BE THE KEY FACTOR. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT AND GROWING ROLE IN NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF ECONOMIC PRODUCTION, BUT ESPECIALLY SO IN THOSE AREAS OF GREATEST NEED AND FASTEST GROWTH. THE AREA OF GREATEST PERCEIVED NEED IS ENERGY. FOLLOWING CLOSELY ARE THE AREAS OF FASTEST GROWTH - MINERALS, AGRICULTURE,
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FORESTRY. MANY ANTARCTIC ISSUES FALL NATURALLY IN THE SCIENCE AREA AND THIS SUBJECT IS OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE. EMABASSY STAFF IS ENTIRELY ADEQUATE TO MEET THE PRESENT AND FORESEEABLE DEMANDS PRESENTED BY OUR SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGICAL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL ISSUES WHICH WILL BE

INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO U.S. RELATIONS WITH CHILE OVER THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS INCLUDE:

A) NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. ALTHOUGH A SIGNATORY OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, THE GOC HAS YET TO SIGN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) AND ACCEPT TOTAL SAFEGUARDS OVER ALL NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. THE GOC WILL EITHER HAVE TO JOIN THE NPT CLUB OR CLOSE DOWN PRESENT FACILITIES AND CANCEL FUTURE PROJECTS. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THE GOC WILL SIGN THE NPT AND ACCEPT TOTAL SAFEGUARDS IN EXCHANGE FOR A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE A DEPENDABLE FUEL SUPPLY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. BASED ON DETAILED GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS UNDERTAKEN WITH UNDP FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, THE GOC BELIEVES CHILE HAS SUBSTANTIAL URANIUM RESERVES. SO FAR WITH LITTLE SUCCESS, THE GOC HAS MADE A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO ATTRACT FOREIGN, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS FOR EXPLORATION AND MINING OF THIS MINERAL. IN THE MEANTIME, THE STATE MINING COMPANY (CODELCO) HAS BUILT A SMALL PILOT PLANT AT CHUQUICAMATA TO RECOVER URANIUM FROM THE IMMENSE ACCUMULATED TAILING OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST OPEN PIT COPPER MINE. GIVEN CHILE'S SCARCE CAPITAL RESOURCES AND THE LUMPY NATURE OF LARGE-SCALE ENERGY INVESTMENT, IN THE END THE GOC WILL HAVE TO DECIDE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR AND HYDROPOWER. IT IS TOO SOON TO PREDICT THE ULTIMATE DECISION. PROVISIONAL PLANS ENVISION THE CONSTRUCTION BY 1987 OF A 600 MW NUCLEAR-ELECTRIC

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PLANT. THIS POSES THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMMERCIAL SALE OF A U.S.-MANUFACTURED LIGHT WATER REACTOR AS WELL AS ALL THE RELATED CONSTRUCTION, MANAGERIAL AND TRAINING CONTRACTS.

B) OTHER ENERGY - PETROLEUM. CHILE IS AN ENERGY DEFICIT COUNTRY, IMPORTING MORE THAN 75 PERCENT OF ITS PETROLEUM NEEDS. INCREASING DEMAND, RISING INTERNATIONAL PRICES AND THE STEADY DEPLETION OF DOMESTIC RESERVES HAVE PROMPTED THE GOC TO UNDERTAKE NEW PROGRAMS. THE U.S. FIGURES LARGELY IN THESE PLANS. LAST YEAR, IT WAS AGREED THAT TWO U.S. OIL COMPANIES WOULD CARRY OUT A NEW EXPLORATION EFFORT IN A LARGE AREA OFF CHILE'S SOUTHERN COAST. REPORTEDLY, A THIRD FOREIGN COMPANY WILL JOIN THE VENTURE THIS YEAR AND AN ADJACENT AREA WILL BE INCLUDED. ADDITIONALLY, THE STATE-OWNED PETROLEUM COMPANY'S (ENAP) OWN STEPPED-UP EXPLORATION EFFORT IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON U.S. TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE.

C) OTHER ENERGY - HYDROELECTRIC. NEARLY TWO THIRDS OF DOMESTIC POWER IS HYDROELECTRICITY GENERATED. MOREOVER, CHILE HAS A VAST RESERVE ON UNEXPLOITED HYDRO POWER AND SEVERAL LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS ARE NOW IN THE PRE-FEASIBILITY STATE. U.S. TECHNOLOGY COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

D) OTHER ENERGY - ALTERNATIVE SOURCES. THE GOC IS CLEARLY LOOKING TO THE U.S. FOR LEADERSHIP IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT. CHILE HAS ABUNDANT LOW-GRADE FOSSIL FUELS, WIND, OCEAN, SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES AWAITING DEVELOPMENT ONCE SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH ARE MADE IN THESE AREAS OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. THE GOC IS NOW SPONSORING A MODEST PROGRAM IN SOLAR ENERGY AND IS PROCEEDING WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEDIUM-SCALE GEOTHERMAL PLANT AT EL TATIO.

E) OCEANS. NO PART OF THIS ELONGATED COUNTRY IS MORE THAN 100 MILES FROM THE OCEAN. CHILE'S UNDERCAPITALIZED FISHING INDUSTRY IS PRONE TO OVERFISH CERTAIN SPECIES IN HEAVILY POPULATED SECTORS WHILE LACKING THE TECHNOLOGY

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AND EQUIPMENT TO HARVEST ABUNDANT FISHING RESOURCES IN REMOTE AREAS OF HARSH CLIMATE. THE GOC HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON WHALE CONSERVATION NOR AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN EFFORTS TO RENEGOTIATE AN INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION TREATY. FROM WHAT WE CAN OBSERVE, OFFSHORE PETROLEUM OPERATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE POLLUTION CONTROL. THE GOC HAS SOUGHT ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FROM THE U.S. IN MARINE POLLUTION CONTROLS. AT THE PRESENT TIME A U.N. FUNDED AND U.S. COAST GUARD SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAM IN POLLUTION CONTROL FOR CHILEAN OFFICIALS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. CHILEAN COASTAL WATERS ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTING TO OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCHERS. FOUR SEPARATE RESEARCH VESSELS, INCLUDING THE USS HERO OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ARE REGULAR VISITORS. BECAUSE OF A SENSITIVE TERRITORIAL WATERS DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA TOGETHER WITH UNTIL RECENTLY A CONSCIOUS GOC HARRASSMENT OF U.S. SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS, CLEARANCE FOR THESE VESSELS HAS BEEN A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND TIME CONSUMING ACTIVITY OF THE SCIENCE ATTACHE. OFFICIAL FOOT-DRAGGING HAS NOW CEASED AND CLEARANCE ARE NO LONGER A PROBLEM. THE GOC TAKES A THIRD WORLD STANCE ON SOME LOS MATTER, INCLUDING

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THE CONDUCT OF MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN CHILEAN WATERS. THE STRAITS OF MAGELLAN STILL HAVE A RESIDUAL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. IF FOR SOME REASON THE PANAMA CANAL SHOULD BE CLOSED, THIS PASSAGE WOULD REGAIN SOME OF ITS PREVIOUS IMPORTANCE.

F) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF A SERIOUS SMOG PROBLEM IN SANTIAGO AND INDUSTRIAL AIR POLLUTION IN CONCEPCION. THE GOC, HOWEVER, HAS YET TO MOUNT EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND CONTROL PROGRAMS FOR AIR AND FRESH WATER QUALITY. POLLUTED RIVERS NEAR DENSELY POPULATED AREAS CONTINUE TO COMPLICATE PURIFICATION AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOIL DEGRADATION. IMPURE WATER CONTAMINATES VEGETABLES WHICH ARE THE VEHICLE FOR A HIGH INCIDENCE OF TYPHUS AND HEPATITIS INFECTIONS.

G) HEALTH, NUTRITION, FOOD TECHNOLOGY, FORESTRY AND POULATION. IN A JOINT PROJECT TERMED THE CHILE FOUNDATION, THE GOC AND ITT
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HAVE ESTABLISHED AN EDOWMENT FUND TO REACH US\$25,000,000 EACH FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON NUTRITION AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY. THE CHILE FOUNDATION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE OBSERVABLE PROGRESS IN THE GENERAL LEVEL OF NUTRITION AS WELL AS FOSTERED IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY. THE FAO HAS ESTIMATED THAT CHILE'S ABUNDANT AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES COULD FEED A POPULATION FOUR TIME PRESENT SIZE. GIVEN THE PROPER INCENTIVES, THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR COULD GREATLY EXPAND AND ALONG WITH IT THE FOOD TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY. CHILE YAS ABUNDANT FOREST RESOURCES, AND LAST YEAR THIS WAS THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRY. U.S. FORESTRY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WILL CLEARLY HAVE AN INCREASED INPUT AND OPPORTUNITIES. BY LDC STANDARDS THE GENERAL HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE IS QUITE GOOD; THE DELIVERY SYSTEM ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS IS LESS ADEQUATE. CHILE TRAINS A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF MEDICAL DOCTORS THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHICH PREFER TO LIVE AND PRACTICE IN LARGE METROPOLITAN CENTERS. ALSO, UNTIL RECENTLY, DEPRESSED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS CAUSED MANY PHYSICIANS TO IMMIGRATE TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IN A SPATIAL SENSE POPULATION IS NOT YET A SERIOUS ISSUE IN CHILE. WITH A RELATIVE LOW RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH OF 1.9 PERCENT, IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE RATION OF POPULATION TO RESOURCES BECOMES AN ACUTE PROBLEM. A MORE SERIOUS CONCERN IS THAT POPULATION GROWTH AND IN-MIGRATION HAS CONCENTRATED ON THE COUNTRY'S THREE LARGEST CITIES. THIS HAS HAMPERED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXACERBATES THE PROBLEM OF URBAN PLANNING.

H) TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, TRANSFER AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. IN THE MINERAL SECTOR, CHILE HAS DEVELOPED SIGNIFICANT LOCAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE AND INNOVATION. GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED CENTER OF MINING AND METALURGICAL RESEARCH UNCLASSIFIED

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(CIMM) IS THE BEST EQUIPPED AND STAFFED SUCH INSTITUTION IN LATIN AMERICA. IN SOME AREAS CIMM IS A WORLD RESEARCH LEADER. GIVEN THE NUMBER OF LARGE-SCALE PRIVATE, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE MINERALS SECTOR (INCLUDING HYDROCARBONS), MOST TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WILL OCCUR IN THIS AREA AND WILL FLOW PRIVATELY. FOR EXAMPLE NEW COPPER MINES AND MINE EXPANSION PROGRAMS NOW IN THE FEASIBILITY STAGE WILL EVENTUALLY COME ON STREAM WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART CAPITAL EQUIPMENT TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF OLDER HIGHER-COST U.S. PRODUCERS. SIMILARLY, A NEWLY COMPLETED IRON ORE PELLETIZING PLANT IS THE EQUAL OF THE MOST MODERN IN THE WORLD.

I) COMMUNICATIONS, SPACE AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY. THE GOV FEELS THAT ITS LONG DISTANCES MAKE ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS UNIQUE; THUS CHILE WILL PROBABLY OPPOSE THE U.S. ON THE QUESTION OF MARITIME AND TERRESTRIAL FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS AT THE 1979 WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE (WARC). SPACE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT A FACTOR NOR EVEN A REMOTE INTEREST IN CHILE. IN A RELATED VEIN, HOWEVER, UNIQUE ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE LOCATION MAKE CHILE ESPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE TO ASTRONOMERS AND THERE IS A STEADY FLOW OF ASTRONOMICAL SCIENTISTS TO STAFF SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY FUNDED OBSERVATORIES. NASA MAINTAINS A TRACKING STATION IN CHILE. THE U.S. PROVIDES NEARLY ALL OF CHILE'S VERY HIGH TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT; WEST GERMANY AND JAPAN, HOWEVER, ARE INCREASING THEIR MARKET SHARE IN PART BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS ON EXIM BANK FINANCING.

J) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AND INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.
ANYONE IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE CHILEAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY NOTICES THE INTENSE DESIRE FOR A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP AND JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH THE U.S. IN ALL AREAS. BECAUSE MOST CHILEAN SCIENTISTS WERE TRAINED IN THE U.S. UNIVERSITIES, SCIENTIFIC FACULTIES AND SCIENTIFICALLY-ORIENTED INSTITUTIONS HAVE HAD AND CONTINUE TO HAVE STRONG ON-GOING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN U.S. SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES. AMERICAN SCIENCE
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PUBLICATIONS ARE READILY AVAILABLE HERE AND ARE WIDELY READ. WHILE IMPOSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY, WE ARE AWARE OF MANY INSTANCES OF INFORMAL COOPERATION AND SHARED RESEARCH RESULTS. OFFICIALLY, GIVEN THE REDUCED SIZE AND SCOPE OF THE U.S. MISSION, EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION ARE AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. NEVERTHELESS, USG SPONSORED EXCHANGES IN THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AREA NUMBERED TEN PERSON IN 1976-78 PERIOD, INCLUDING GRANTEES CONCERNED WITH AGRONOMY, ELECTRICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, MEDICINE, OCEANOGRAPHY, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE. WE NOTE THAT INTER AMERICAN GEODETIC SURVEY MAINTAINS A FIELD OFFICE OF THREE FULL-TIME OFFICERS IN SANTIAGO. MOREOVER, ICA SPONSORS AN ACTIVE PROGRAM OF VOLUNTARY SPEAKERS - MANY OF WHOM LECTURE IN THE SCIENCE FIELD, AS WELL AS A SEMINAR PROGRAM WHICH OCCASIONALLY DEALS WITH TOPICS SUCH AS ENERGY.

K) ARMS TECHNOLOGY AND DISARMAMENT. AT PRESENT CHILE IS PROHIBITED BY U.S. LAW FROM US MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF ARMS IN THE US MARKET. THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT AND INTEREST IN VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE'S PROPOSAL AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION

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ON DISARMAMENT FOR SHARING US TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERIENCE
ON DETECTION AND MONITORING SYSTEMS. (SEE SANTIAGO 4130).
HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT ENTHUSIASM TO DECLINE IF CHILE'S
PRESENT POOR RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS IMPROVE.

L) THE ANTARCTIC. CHILE IS ONE OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY
MEMBER NATIONS AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN ALL WORK GROUP
MEETINGS, PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES RELATED TO THE
ANTARCTIC. THE GOC NEVER MISSES AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROCLAIM ITS
SOVEREIGNTY OVER AN AREA IN THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA WHICH CONFLICTS
WITH SIMILAR CLAIMS MADE BY ARGENTINA AND GREAT BRITAIN. EMBASSY
IS OFTEN CALLED UPON TO COORDINATE POSITIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND
GOC, SERVE AS GO-BETWEEN IN INFORMATION EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE GOC
AND OTHER TREATY MEMBER NATIONS, REMIND GOC ENTITIES OF
UPCOMING MEETINGS, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER TASKS. ALL OF
THESE FUNCTIONS WILL BECOME MORE CRITICAL AS THE ANTARCTIC TREATY
NEARS ITS EXPIRATION DATE. STICKY QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY,
PROTECTION OF MARINE AND ANIMAL RESOURCES, AND FUTURE EXPLOITATION
OF RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES MUST BE RESOLVED AT
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SOME POINT AND THE U.S. IS LIKELY TO FIND ITSELF AT ODDS WITH
CHILE ON MOST OF THESE ISSUES.

M) TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF TERRORISM. THE PRESENT MILITARY
REGIME, EMPLOYING STIFF STATE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES, HAS
LARGELY ELIMINATED ORGANIZED TERRORISM - BOTH INTERNAL AND
INTERNATIONAL. WHILE THE GOC MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FURTHER
STRENGTHENING ITS CAPABILITIES IN THIS AREA, AT LEAST SOME OF THE
TECHNOLOGY WOULD PROBABLY COME UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT BAN.

N) NARCOTICS CONTROL. MORE OF A WAY-STATION FOR
NARCOTICS, THE EMPLOYMENT OF SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS
AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IN CONTROLLING THIS LIMITED
TRAFFIC WOULD BE OF DOUBTFUL UTILITY IN CHILE.

O) FINALLY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TASKS WHICH THE
SCIENCE ATTACHE PERFORMS THAT DO NOT FALL INTO ANY
SPECIFIC CATEGORY. FOR EXAMPLE, THIS OFFICER SERVES AS A

RECEIVING AND DISPATCHING AGENCY BETWEEN U.S.G. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGENCIES AND THEIR CHILEAN COUNTERPARTS. THE VOLUME OF EQUIPMENT AND PUBLICATIONS PASSED VIA THIS CHANNEL IS RELATIVELY LARGE. ALSO, WE NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO A LARGE NUMBER OF AIDE MEMORIES, INFORMAL MEMORANDA AND ROUTINE CORRESPONDENCE, THE SCIENCE ATTACHE PRODUCED 65 PERCENT OF ALL DIPLOMATIC NOTES PRODUCED BY THE EMBASSY IN A RECENT TWELVE MONTH PERIOD.

3. PRESENT EMBASSY STAFF IS ADEQUATE TO HANDLE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ASPECTS OF THE ABOVE ISSUES. THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF A REGIONAL SCIENCE COUNSELOR IN BUENOS AIRES, WHO CAN BE CONSULTED IN A NEED-TO BASIS, ALLOWA A GENERALIST OFFICER IN SANTIAGO WITH SPECIAL BRIEFINGS AND SHORT-TERM TRAINING IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ASPECTS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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SUFFICE. NO ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED. WE SUGGEST THAT OUR REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT SO MUCH FOR TRAINED SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL AS FOR ECONOMIC/COMMERICAL OFFICERS ABREAST OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN ITS COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC APPLICATIONS.
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